



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY PATENT  
APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Box PATENT APPLICATION  
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Sir:

Enclosed for filing is the utility patent application of (1) Toshiharu MORI and (2) Takuji HATANO for OPTICAL FILTER DEVICE.

Also enclosed are:

- ☒ 3 sheet(s) of ☒ formal ☐ informal drawing(s);
- ☒ a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and/or 365 is ☒ hereby made to 10-268112 filed in Japan on September 22, 1998, and to Provisional Application No. 60/126,181 filed in the United States on March 25, 1999; ☒ in the declaration;
- ☒ a certified copy of the priority document;
- ☐ a Constructive Petition for Extensions of Time;
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ statement(s) claiming small entity status;
- ☒ an Assignment document;
- ☒ an Information Disclosure Statement; and
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

The declaration of the inventor(s) ☒ also is enclosed ☐ will follow.

- ☐ Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence --This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §§119 and/or 365 to      filed in      on     ; the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.--

The filing fee has been calculated as follows [X] and in accordance with the enclosed preliminary amendment:

CLAIMS					
	NO. OF CLAIMS		EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	FEE
Basic Application Fee					\$760.00
Total Claims	22	MINUS 20 =	2	x \$18.00	\$ 36.00
Independent Claims	4	MINUS 3 =	1	x \$78.00	\$ 78.00
If multiple dependent claims are presented, add \$260.00					0
Total Application Fee					\$874.00
If verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, subtract 50% of Total Application Fee					0
Add Assignment Recording Fee of \$40.00 if Assignment document is enclosed					\$ 40.00
<b>TOTAL APPLICATION FEE DUE</b>					<b>\$914.00</b>

[X] A check in the amount of \$ 914.00 is enclosed for the fee due.

[ ] Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.

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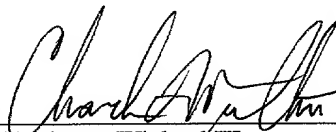
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 9, 1999

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## OPTICAL FILTER DEVICE

Priority is claimed to Japanese Patent Application No. 10-268112 filed in Japan on September 22, 1998, and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/126,181 filed in the United States on March 25, 1999, both of which are herein  
5 incorporated by reference.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1) Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an optical filter device, and particularly to an optical filter device for splitting light which is to be used in a wavelength  
10 division multiplexing communication apparatus.

#### 2) Discussion of Related Art

Recently, in order to realize information transmission of high speed and high density, wavelength division multiplexing communication in which light signals of different wavelengths are transmitted through a single optical fiber has  
15 been studied and developed. For a system for transmitting an image and a sound from a broadcasting station to a subscriber, particularly, a transmission procedure is under study in which a video signal is transmitted by light having a wavelength of 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$  and an audio signal by light having a wavelength of 1.3  $\mu\text{m}$ , in order to reduce the production cost of a line facility. In a wavelength division  
20 multiplexing light transmission module which is used in such a system, light must be split into two light components of different wavelengths. Conventionally, a dielectric multilayer film filter is therefore inserted into an optical waveguide layer.

Specifically, a groove of several tens of micrometers is formed in an  
25 optical waveguide layer, and such a filter is inserted into the groove. When the

groove is narrowed, the insertion loss can be reduced. Therefore, the filter must also be formed so as to have a reduced thickness.

In the prior art, a dielectric film consisting of several tens of layers is grown on a polyimide film by the vacuum evaporation method. However, a  
5 process of forming a multilayer film by the vacuum evaporation method has a low mass productivity and hence there is a problem in that the production cost is very high.

### OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide an optical filter device having a  
10 filter element which can be economically mass-produced.

In order to attain this object, in the optical filter device of the invention, a filter element having a liquid crystal layer is disposed in a position which divides an optical waveguide layer in a waveguide direction, the liquid crystal layer having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch is adjusted so as to reflect light  
15 of a predetermined wavelength.

Some kinds of liquid crystals such as a liquid crystal exhibiting a cholesteric phase have a property that molecules are in a twisted state, so as to reflect light of a specific wavelength corresponding to the helical pitch and transmit light of another wavelength. The invention employs this property of a  
20 liquid crystal, and uses a liquid crystal layer as a wavelength filter.

Various kinds of cholesteric liquid crystals can be used for content of the liquid crystal layer. For example, chiral nematic liquid crystal which contains nematic liquid crystal and chiral agent can be used. By controlling added amount of the chiral agent, the helical pitch or chiral pitch can be easily adjusted.  
25 Therefore, chiral nematic liquid crystal is preferable for the present invention. Further to this, ultraviolet curing liquid crystal can be also used for the liquid crystal layer. In this liquid crystal, the helical pitch does not change regardless of

the temperature change. Therefore, temperature management is not necessary when using this type of liquid crystal.

A liquid crystal layer of this kind can be economically formed into a device element by a simple production step of sandwiching the liquid crystal layer  
5 between transparent substrates such as glass plates and, if the liquid crystal is UV curing liquid crystal material, then irradiating the layer with ultraviolet rays. Consequently, an optical filter device can be configured by inserting such a filter element into a groove which is formed in an optical waveguide layer.

Alternatively, a liquid crystal material may be filled into a groove which is formed  
10 in an optical waveguide layer, and, if the liquid crystal is UV curing liquid crystal material, then cured. A liquid crystal layer of a thickness of about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  can be easily obtained, and hence the insertion loss is low.

Usually, light is circularly polarized. When the liquid crystal layer is configured by a two- or four-layer structure consisting of right- and left-handed  
15 twist layers, the reflectance to light of a predetermined wavelength can be enhanced.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will now be described by way of exemplary embodiments, to which the invention is not limited, as shown in the accompanying  
20 drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing an optical filter device which is a first embodiment of the invention;

Figures 2(A)-2(D) are views illustrating a process of producing a filter element configured by a liquid crystal layer;

25 Fig. 3 is a graph showing the spectral transmittance characteristic of the filter element (single-layer);

Fig. 4 is a graph showing the spectral transmittance characteristic of the filter element (two-layer);

Fig. 5 is a graph showing the spectral transmittance characteristic of the filter element (four-layer); and

5 Fig. 6 is a diagram showing an optical filter device which is a second embodiment of the invention.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, embodiments of the optical filter device of the invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

#### 10 Properties of a Liquid Crystal Layer as a Wavelength Filter

As a method of selectively reflecting light of a predetermined wavelength and transmitting light of another wavelength, usually, an interference effect of a thin film is employed. A liquid crystal exhibiting a cholesteric phase, particularly, a chiral nematic liquid crystal configured by adding a chiral agent to a nematic  
15 liquid crystal has such a reflection characteristic. A liquid crystal of this kind selectively reflects light of a wavelength corresponding to the helical pitch of liquid crystal molecules as shown in expressions (1) and (2) below (circular dichroism).

$$\lambda = n \cdot P \quad (1)$$

$$20 \quad \Delta\lambda = \Delta n \cdot P \quad (2)$$

$\lambda$ : selective reflection wavelength

P: helical pitch

n: average refractive index

$\Delta\lambda$ : band of selective reflection

25  $\Delta n$ :  $n_e - n_o$  ( $n_e$  is the refractive index of the extraordinary ray, and  $n_o$  is the refractive index of the ordinary ray).

First Embodiment

Fig. 1 shows an optical filter device of a first embodiment, and Figure 2 shows a process of producing a liquid crystal layer which is used in the device.

In the optical filter device shown in Figure 1, an optical waveguide layer 2 made of quartz is stacked on a silicon substrate 1, and a filter element 5 which will be described later in detail is inserted into a groove 3 which is formed in a center portion of the optical waveguide layer 2. A photodiode 11, a laser diode 12, and a monitor photodiode 13 are further mounted on the silicon substrate 1.

A video signal of a wavelength of  $1.55\ \mu\text{m}$  and an audio signal of a wavelength of  $1.3\ \mu\text{m}$  are superimposed and input from the direction of the arrow A to the optical waveguide layer 2. The video signal is selectively reflected by the filter element 5 to be emitted in the direction of the arrow B. The audio signal is transmitted through the filter element 5 and then impinges on the photodiode 11 in the direction of the arrow C. On the other hand, an audio signal of a wavelength of  $1.3\ \mu\text{m}$  is supplied from the laser diode 12 from the direction of the arrow D, and then transmitted through the filter element 5 in the opposite direction, to be emitted in the direction of the arrow A'. The separation of the paths according to wavelength is because  $\phi_2$  (signifying the angle between the line interconnecting points A and C with the line intersecting point B and the filter 3) is relatively large. It is large enough that the  $1.3\ \mu\text{m}$  wavelength light coming from the laser diode 12 goes in the direction of arrow A' and not toward arrow B. However, because  $\phi_1$  of Figure 1 is relatively small, the  $1.3\ \mu\text{m}$  signal can go to the photodiode 11.

The filter element 5 is a single-layer member consisting of a film-like ultraviolet curing liquid crystal layer having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch after curing is adjusted so as to reflect light of a wavelength of  $1.55\ \mu\text{m}$ , or a stacked member of such a liquid crystal layer and a transparent substrate. Hereinafter, a production process will be described specifically.

As shown in Figure 2(A), a stripping agent is first applied to a mirror-polished substrate 21, and, after drying, a spacer 22 is placed thereon. The stripping agent is used for easily stripping off a film 5b which will be described below, from the substrate 21. In the embodiment, a volatile solvent containing  
5 SEPARAKKU (produced by Yamaichi Kagaku Kogyosha) was used as the stripping agent. The substrate 21 may be made of any one of various materials including glass, ceramics, a metal, and a resin, as far as its surface can be formed as a mirror surface which can prevent the face of the film 5b from being roughened. In the embodiment, in consideration of the configuration of the filter  
10 element 5 which includes the substrate 21, glass, which is a transparent material, is used as the material of the substrate.

The spacer 22 is used for defining the thickness of the film 5b to be formed, and may be configured by a tape, glass beads, or the like. In the embodiment, MICROPEARL SP-220 (produced by Sekisui Fine Chemical Co.,  
15 Ltd.) which has a diameter of 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and which is commercially available as a spacer for a liquid crystal cell was used as the spacer. The thickness of the spacer 22 is adequately selected so that the formed film 5b has a desired thickness (10 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ ).

Preferably, the lower limit of the thickness of the film 5b is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and the  
20 higher limit is 60  $\mu\text{m}$ . When the thickness is equal to or smaller than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , the number of repetitions of the helical pitch of liquid crystal molecules is insufficient, and the selective reflection characteristic is impaired. A thickness corresponding to 10 pitches is required at the minimum. When the reflection characteristic can be prevented from being impaired, however, the thickness may be equal to or  
25 smaller than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . By contrast, when the thickness exceeds 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , the width of the groove 3 formed in the optical waveguide layer 2 must be increased. In this configuration, the insertion loss is increased.



The above discussion is applied to the case where only the film 5b is used as the filter element 5. When a stacked member including the substrate 21 is used as the filter element 5, the thickness of the stacked member is preferably set so as not to exceed 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5           Next, a few drops of an ultraviolet curing nematic liquid crystal 5a to which a chiral agent is added at a predetermined mixture ratio are dropped onto the substrate 21. As the chiral agent, for example, useful are S-811, R-811, S1011, R-1011, and CN (all are products of Merck & Co., Inc.). As the  
10           ultraviolet curing nematic liquid crystal, useful are ULC-001, ULC-002 (all are products of Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc.), etc. Depending on the structure of the used chiral agent, it is possible to select either of the right-handed rotatory and the left-handed rotatory. In accordance with the amount of addition, the selective reflection wavelength can be adjusted. In experiments of the  
15           embodiment, two kinds of samples which can attain a selective reflection wavelength of 1.55  $\mu\text{m}$ , namely, ULC-0002 (right-handed rotatory, sample A) to which 7.4 wt. % of R-811 was added, and ULC-0002 (left-handed rotatory, sample B) to which 7.2 wt. % of S-811 was added were prepared.

          Next, the liquid crystal 5a on the substrate 21 is pressed downward by a transparent substrate 23, to be formed into the film 5b (see Figure 2(B)), and then  
20           irradiated with ultraviolet rays to be cured. Specifically, the ultraviolet curing nematic liquid crystal 5a to which the chiral agent is added is sandwiched through the spacer 22 between the pair of substrates 21 and 23, and irradiated with ultraviolet rays of a predetermined illuminance, thereby producing a film-like thin film filter.

25           The substrate 23 may be made of any one of various materials such as glass, and a film, as far as ultraviolet rays can be transmitted through the material. In this example, glass was used. The irradiation of ultraviolet rays was conducted for three minutes by using a mercury vapor lamp of 10 to 15  $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$ .

Next, the cured film 5b is cut into a given size along the lines X and Y shown in Figure 2(C), and then peeled off from the substrate 21 as shown in Figure 2(D). It is a matter of course that the film may be cut together with the substrate 21 so that the combination of the film and the substrate may be used as a stacked member.

Figure 3 shows the spectral transmittance characteristic of a film 5A (produced from the sample A, right-handed rotatory) which was produced by the process described above. As apparent from Figure 3, a liquid crystal exhibiting a cholesteric phase basically acts only on single circularly polarized light, and hence reflects only about 50% of incident light. In order to attain a higher reflectance, a two-layer structure having the right-handed rotatory and the left-handed rotatory is formed, and the structure is used by being inserted into the groove 3 shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 shows the spectral transmittance characteristic of a structure in which a film 5B (produced from the sample B, left-handed rotatory) is stacked on the film 5A. In order to further improve the characteristic, a four-layer structure (in which two sets of the films 5A and 5B respectively having the right-handed rotatory and the left-handed rotatory are stacked) is formed.

Figure 5 shows the spectral transmittance characteristic of the four-layer structure. The characteristics shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 5 were measured while the glass substrate 21 was included in the structure.

Figures 2(A)-2(D) show the process of producing the single-layer film. A film of a two- or four-layer structure can be produced in the following manner. A liquid crystal which will be formed as an upper layer is added dropwise onto the film 5b which is obtained in the step of Figure 2(C), in a direct manner or through a thin transparent film or the like. The liquid crystal is then gradually cured. Alternatively, another film 5b in the cured state may be stacked on the film.

When the films 5A and 5B are stacked on each other, the spectral transmittance characteristic is improved, but the production cost is increased. Therefore, the filter element 5 is provided with an optimum layered structure so as to attain a desired characteristic, while considering the whole characteristics which are determined by the characteristics of a light source and the photodiode 11, those of a signal processing circuit, and the like.

#### Second Embodiment

An optical filter device of a second embodiment is shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6 diagrammatically shows the optical filter device. An optical waveguide layer 32 made of quartz is stacked on a silicon substrate 31. A liquid crystal material before curing is directly poured into a groove 33 formed in the optical waveguide layer 32, and then irradiated with ultraviolet rays to be cured, thereby producing a filter element 35. The function and effects of the filter element 35 are identical with those of the above-described filter element 5 (the films 5A and 5B). The filter element may be configured by a single layer or plural layers.

In a liquid crystal exhibiting a cholesteric phase, liquid crystal molecules tend to be aligned in parallel when an orientation process is not particularly conducted. As shown in Figure 6, therefore, the helical axis is oriented in parallel with the waveguide direction A of the optical waveguide layer 32, only by pouring the liquid crystal material into the groove 33. An orientation process may be conducted on the vertical faces of the groove 33.

#### Other Embodiments

The optical filter device of the invention is not restricted to the embodiments described above, and may be variously modified within the scope of the invention.

Particularly, it is a matter of course that various materials other than those described in the first embodiment may be used in the ultraviolet curing liquid crystal layer. The production process of the layer may be variously selected in accordance with the material. Furthermore, the materials of the substrate and the optical waveguide layer can be arbitrarily selected.

Further, normal cholesteric liquid crystal materials can be used, as mentioned above. However, the temperature dependence of cholesteric liquid crystals makes UV curable liquid crystal attractive since it is not necessary to manage temperature variations which might otherwise change the helical pitch of chiral pitch of the chiral-agent.

The present invention has been described by way of exemplary embodiments to which the invention is not limited. Variations and modifications in addition to those described herein will doubtless occur to those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as recited in the claims appended hereto.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical filter device comprising:  
an optical waveguide layer; and  
a filter element including a liquid crystal layer disposed in a position which  
5 divides said optical waveguide layer in a waveguide direction, said liquid crystal  
layer having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch reflects light of a  
predetermined wavelength.
2. An optical filter device according to claim 1, wherein said filter  
element is inserted into a groove which is formed in said optical waveguide layer.
- 10 3. An optical filter device according to claim 1, wherein said filter  
element is formed by filling a liquid crystal material before curing into a groove  
which is formed in said optical waveguide layer, and then curing the liquid crystal  
material.
4. An optical filter device according to claim 1, wherein said liquid  
15 crystal layer is formed by stacking a right-handed twist layer and a left-handed  
twist layer.
5. An optical filter device according to claim 2, wherein said liquid  
crystal layer is formed by stacking a right-handed twist layer and a left-handed  
twist layer.
- 20 6. An optical filter device according to claim 3, wherein said liquid  
crystal layer is formed by stacking a right-handed twist layer and a left-handed  
twist layer.

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7. An optical filter device according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal layer has a thickness of 10 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. An optical filter device according to claim 2, wherein said liquid crystal layer has a thickness of 10 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5 9. An optical filter device according to claim 3, wherein said liquid crystal layer has a thickness of 10 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

10. An optical filter device according to claim 1, wherein said liquid crystal layer is an ultraviolet curing liquid crystal layer.

10 11. An optical filter device according to claim 10, wherein said liquid crystal layer comprises an ultraviolet curing nematic liquid crystal and a chiral agent.

12. A optical filter device comprising:  
a substrate;  
an optical waveguide layer on a substrate into which is formed a groove;  
15 and  
a filter element in said groove, wherein said filter element includes a liquid crystal layer disposed in a position which divides said optical waveguide layer in a waveguide direction, said liquid crystal layer having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch reflects light of a predetermined wavelength.

20 13. An optical filter device according to claim 11, further including a photodiode, a laser diode, and a monitor photodiode on the silicon substrate.

14. An optical filter device according to claim 12, wherein said filter element is a single-layer member having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch reflects a specific wavelength.

5 15. An optical filter device according to claim 12, wherein said filter element is a plural-layer member having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch reflects a specific wavelength.

16. An optical filter device according to claim 12, wherein said waveguide is quartz.

10 17. An optical filter device according to claim 12, wherein said liquid crystal layer is an ultraviolet curing liquid crystal layer.

18. A method of producing an optical filter element, wherein said filter element includes an ultraviolet curing liquid crystal layer having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch after curing reflects light of a predetermined wavelength, said method comprising:

15 providing a substrate;  
placing a spacer material on a mirror-polished surface of said substrate; and  
placing said ultraviolet curing liquid crystal material on said substrate adjacent to said spacer material;  
pressing a UV-transparent substrate on said ultraviolet curing liquid crystal  
20 material to form a film; and  
irradiating said ultraviolet curing liquid crystal material with ultraviolet rays.

21. A method according to claim 19, further comprising adding an additional layer of liquid crystal film on said film, before said curing step, including adding dropwise additional liquid crystal onto said film.

22. A method of forming an optical filter device, comprising:  
providing a substrate;  
10 providing an optical waveguide layer on said substrate and having a groove  
formed therein;  
pouring a liquid crystal material into said groove; and  
irradiating said liquid crystal material with ultraviolet rays,  
wherein said liquid crystal material exhibits a cholesteric phase whose  
15 helical axis is oriented in parallel with the waveguide direction of said optical  
waveguide layer.



The optical waveguide includes an optical waveguide layer, and a filter element including an ultraviolet curing liquid crystal layer disposed in a position which divides the optical waveguide layer in a waveguide direction. The ultraviolet curing liquid crystal layer having a twisted structure in which a helical pitch after curing reflects light of a predetermined wavelength.

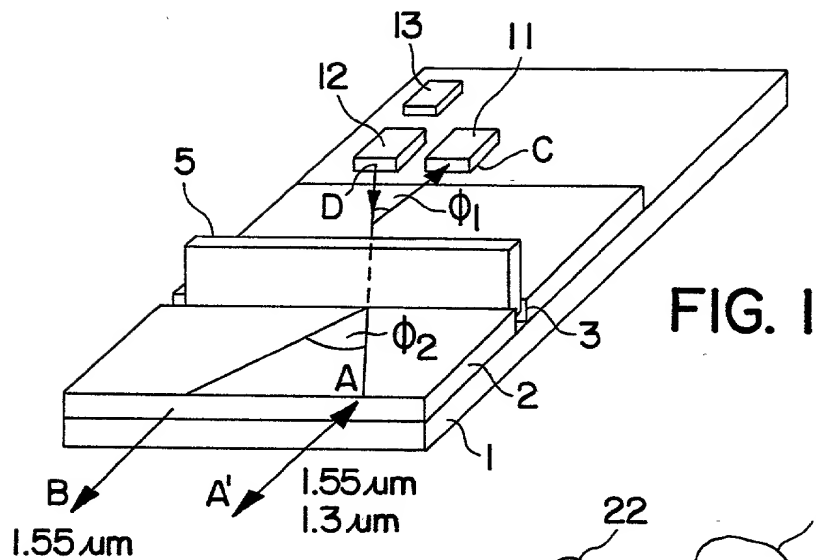


FIG. 1

FIG. 2(A)

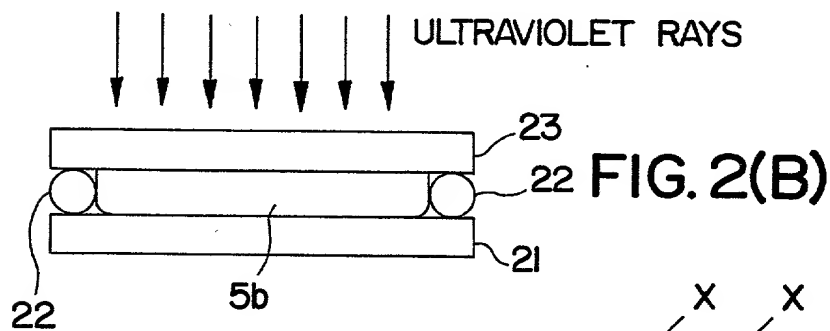
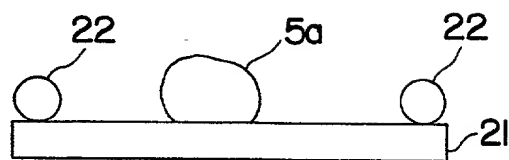


FIG. 2(B)

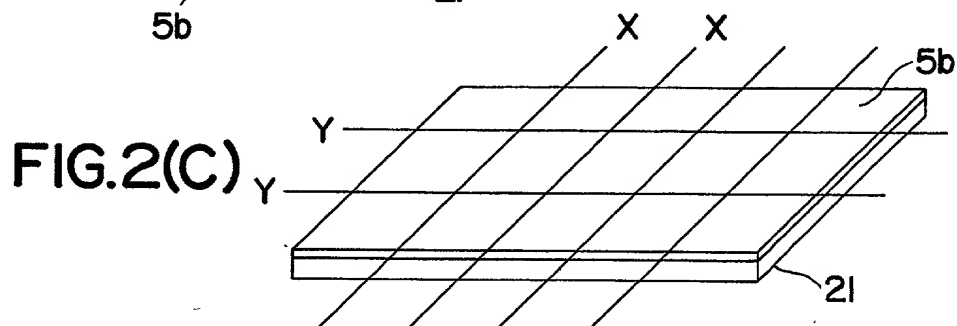


FIG. 2(C)

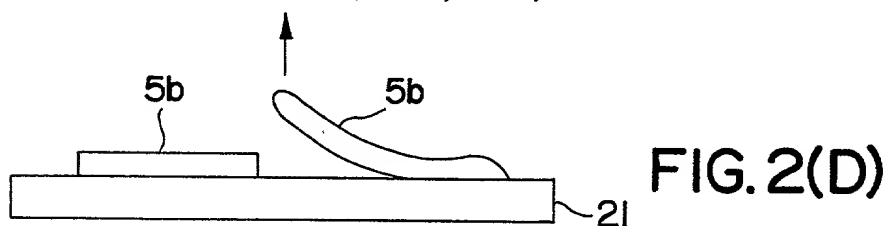
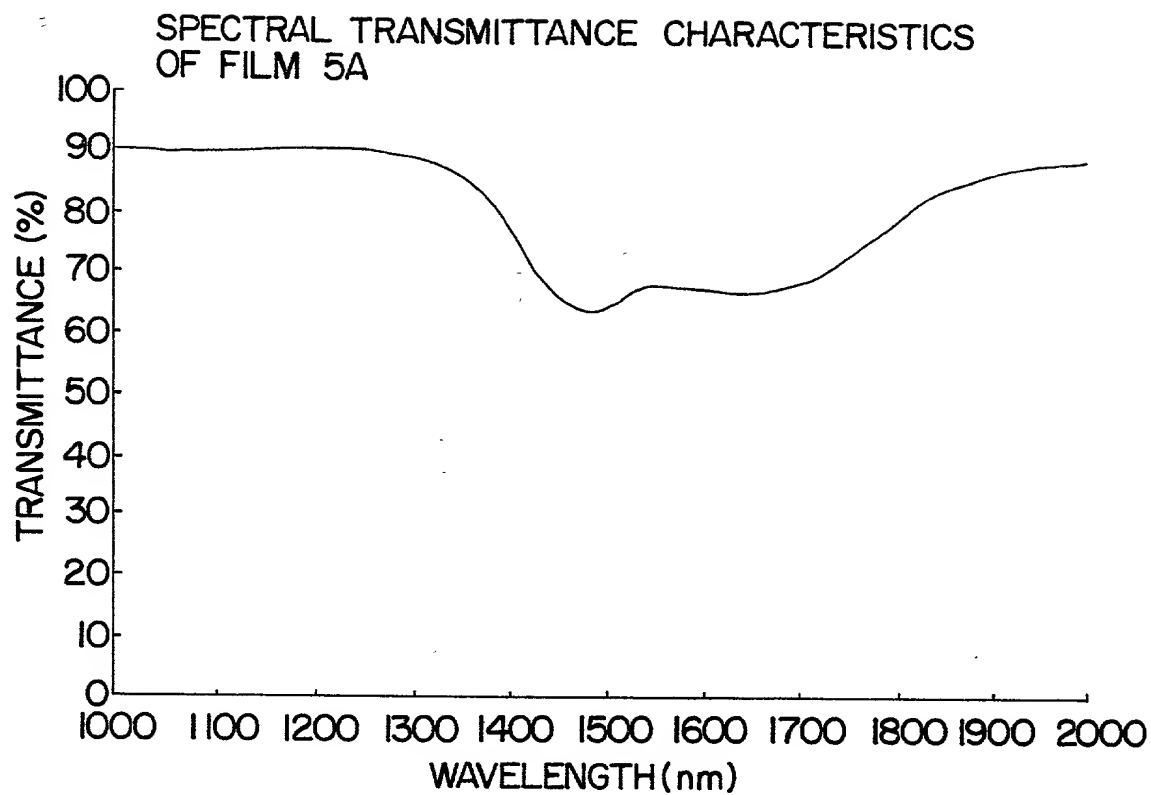
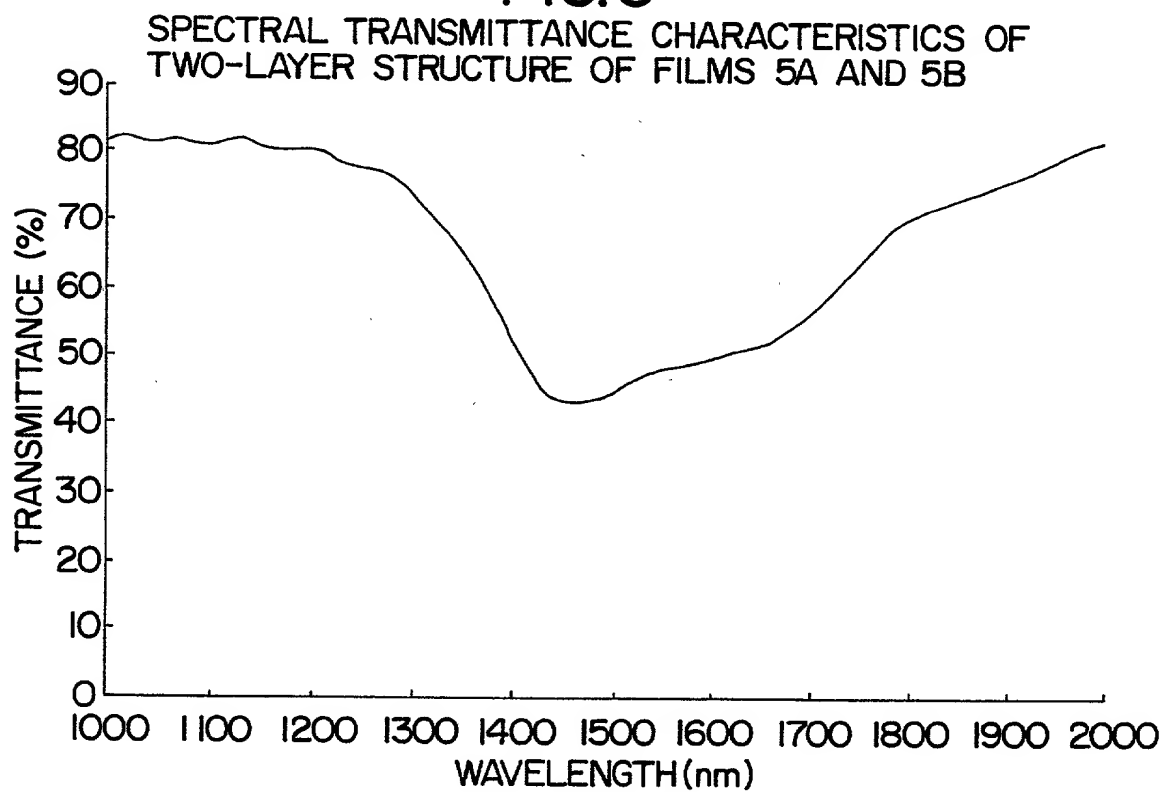


FIG. 2(D)

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**FIG.3**



**FIG.4**

SPECTRAL TRANSMITTANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF  
TWO-LAYER STRUCTURE OF FILMS 5A AND 5B

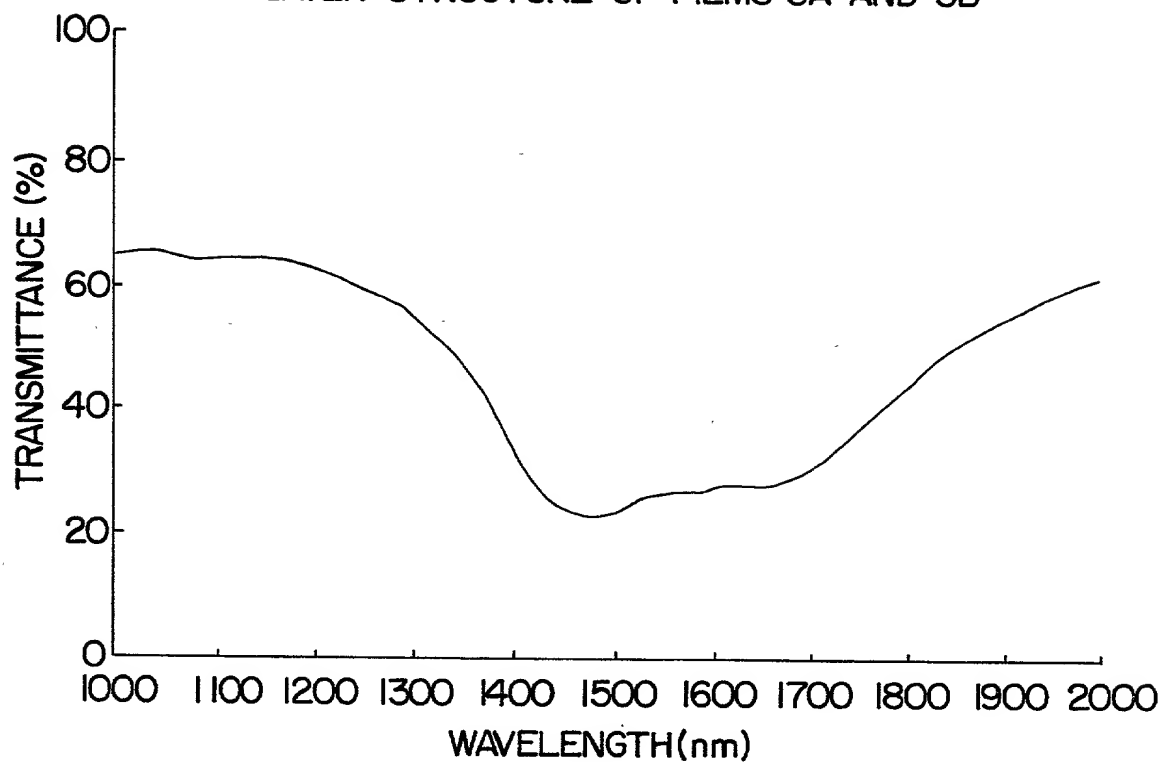


FIG. 5

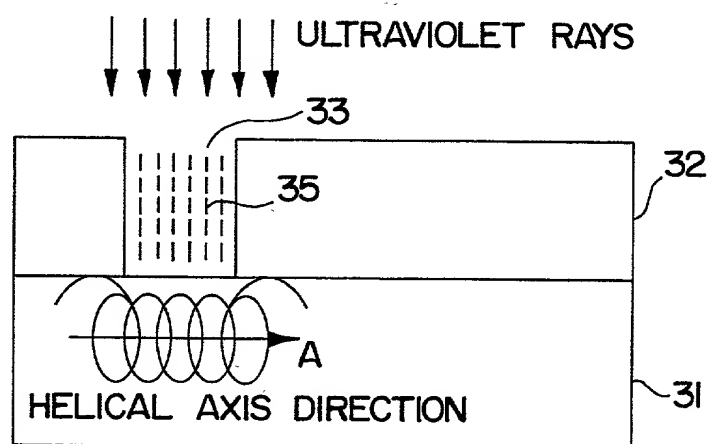


FIG. 6

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

OPTICAL FILTER DEVICE

the specification of which (check only one item below):

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed as United States application

Number \_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended

on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

☐ was filed as PCT international application

Number \_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended

on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (a)-(e) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119:

COUNTRY (if PCT, indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119
JAPAN	10-268112	22 SEPTEMBER 1998	<u>X</u> Yes ___ No
			___ Yes ___ No
			___ Yes ___ No
			___ Yes ___ No
			___ Yes ___ No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

60/126,181

(Application Number)

25 MARCH 1999

(Filing Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Filing Date)

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
(CONTINUED)  
(Includes Reference to Provisional and PCT International Applications)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.  
018656-085

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS

STATUS (check one)

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER

U.S. FILING DATE

PATENTED

PENDING

ABANDONED

PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.

PCT APPLICATION NO.

PCT FILING DATE

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBERS  
ASSIGNED (if any)

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agent(s) to prosecute said application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and to file, prosecute and to transact all business in connection with international applications directed to said invention:

William L. Mathis 17,337  
Robert S. Swecker 19,885  
Platon N. Mandros 22,124  
Benton S. Duffett, Jr. 22,030  
Norman H. Stepno 22,716  
Ronald L. Grudziecki 24,970  
Frederick G. Michaud, Jr. 26,003  
Alan E. Kopecki 25,813  
Regis E. Slutter 26,999  
Samuel C. Miller, III 27,360  
Robert G. Mukai 28,531  
George A. Hovanec, Jr. 28,223  
James A. LaBarre 28,632  
E. Joseph Gess 28,510

R. Danny Huntington 27,903  
Eric H. Weisblatt 30,505  
James W. Peterson 26,057  
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY (CONTINUED) (Includes Reference to Provisional and PCT International Applications)		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 018656-085
FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR Toshiharu MORI	SIGNATURE <i>Toshiharu Mori</i>	DATE Aug. 18, 1999
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FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY Takuji HATANO	SIGNATURE <i>Takuji Hatano</i>	DATE Aug. 18, 1999
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FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
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POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF SIXTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	
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FULL NAME OF SEVENTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	
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FULL NAME OF EIGHTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF NINTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	
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